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# Hepton Rural District Council.

# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

Year Ending December 31st, 1939.

Hebden Bridge:

Kershaw and Ashworth, Ltd., Market Street.

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# Rural District Council.

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# Hepton Rural District Council.

# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

# Medical Officer of Health

Holme House,

Hebden Bridge.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hepton Rural District Council.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Hepton Rural District for the year 1939.

The area of the district is 20,501 acres. The population was 4,587 in 1921, and the estimated population for the year 1939 was 4,451. Some of the inhabitants belong to the farming class, but the majority are employed as operatives in the various cotton mills in the District and in the adjoining Urban District in the wholesale clothing works and the weaving sheds. At the end of 1939 there were 1,529 inhabited houses in the District according to the Rate Books. The rateable value is £34,119, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £127 1s. 3d.

### STATISTICS: EMPLOYMENT, YEAR 1939.

The following information has been kindly given to me by the Manager of the Hebden Bridge Employment Exchange, whose area is representative of Hebden Royd, and also includes the neighbouring district of the Hepton Rural District Council.

Unemployment at the beginning of 1939 was rather better than for December 1938, but the total at 16th January was 1061, and of the total 422 were temporarily suspended from Wholesale Clothing. Building, Woodworking, Cotton Spinning and Weaving trades had their quota of short time.

February brought a great improvement in all industries with a reduced Register of 654; Wholesale Clothing still only fair. A further reduction in March with a figure of 476, indicating that all local industries were very good. The after effects of Easter Holidays in April caused short time in Wholesale Clothing, and the figure increased to 543, reduced again in May to 455, and improving in June with 380, and July 318.

August 348, September 307 (year ago 1578). In October the figure was reduced to 281, when all industries were busy and short-time negligible. November showed an increase to 372, mostly due to short-time in Woodworking. This disappeared in December with a Live Register of 249.

Generally the year was one of gradual improvement in local trades owing to the increase in Government Contracts, and in December the factory at Old Town was re-opened and all suitable unemployed local women and a number of men commenced to take up employment there.

W. B. COOK, Manager.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

| | | Total | M. | F. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births | Legitimate ... | 44 | 21 | 23 | Birth-rate per 1000 Estimated Resident Population 10.35 |
| | Illegitimate... | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| Still Births | Legitimate | 1 | 1 | 0 | Rate per 1000 (live and still) Total Births, 21.27 Rate per 1000 Population, 0.22 |
| | Illegitimate | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

| | Total | M. | F. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Deaths ..... | 56 | 32 | 24 | Death-rate per 1000 Estimated Resident Population, 12.99 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birth Rate (England and Wales) | | 15.0 | per 1000 population |
| Still Birth Rate | ,, | 0.59 | ,, |
| Death Rate | ,, | 12.1 | ,, |

**Deaths from Puerperal Causes.**

| | Deaths. | Total (live & still) Births. | Rate per 1000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis ..... | 0 | ..... | 0 |
| No. 30. Other Puerperal Causes | 0 | ..... | 0 |

Death of Infants under 1 year of age:—

Legitimate .....Total 0. Males 0. Females 0.

Illegitimate.....Total 0. Males 0. Females 0.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births:—

Legitimate 0, Illegitimate 0. All Infants 0.

Death Rate Infants under 1 year per 1000 live births:—
England and Wales—50.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Deaths from | Measles (all ages) | 0 |
| ,, | Whooping Cough (all ages) | 0 |
| ,, | Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) | 0 |
| ,, | Cancer (all ages) | 4 |
| ,, | Heart Disease (all ages) | 17 |
| ,, | Influenza | 1 |
| ,, | Cerebral Hemorrhage (all ages) | 3 |
| ,, | Diphtheria (all ages) | 0 |
| ,, | Suicide | 2 |

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer, who also acts as Public Vaccinator and District M.O. under the Poor Law Act.

The Sanitary Officer is a full-time officer; and other Public Health Officers such as Veterinary Surgeons, Public Analysts, etc., come under the control of the West Riding County Council.

## PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

This is principally carried out by the two District Nurses attached to the Hebden Bridge District Nursing Institution. These two Nurses are qualified both in General and Maternity Nursing. They attend confinements at a small fixed fee. Arrangements are now in force whereby a Nurse can be provided by the West Riding County Council for the nursing of infectious diseases in the home, in the event of there being no hospital accommodation for such cases.

The Institution receives a subsidy from the Ministry of Health towards the cost of running the Maternity service. It has no connection with the Local Authority. Midwives: The two District Nurses referred to are the only practising midwives in the area.

The local authority makes no subsidy towards practising midwives.

There was no change in this service during the year.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield. Autogenous vaccines and sera are supplied free of charge to local medical men requiring same.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied by your Council free of charge to any medical practitioner requiring it.

## HOSPITALS.

There are no Hospitals in the District, but those available for use by the inhabitants of the area are as follows:—

| | | M. | F. | Beds. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General Medical<br>General Surgical | ROYAL HALIFAX INFIRMARY | 97 | | 70 |
| Children | ,, | | 43 | |
| Maternity | ,, | | 20 | |
| Venereal Diseases | ,, | Included in above figures. | | |
| Orthopædic | ,, | ,, | | |
| Ear, Nose and Throat | ,, | ,, | | |

Tuberculosis ...The Sanatoria under the administration of the West Riding County Council.

Chronic Sick...STANSFIELD VIEW HOSPITAL, 31 Male Beds and 31 Female Beds.

Mental.....Under County Council Administration.

Mental Deficiency—Under County Council Administration.

Puerperal Fever & Pyrexia...St. Luke's Hospital, Halifax.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum...Ditto, by arrangement with the County Council.

Fevers .....FIELDEN HOSPITAL, Todmorden.

Smallpox...SOURHALL HOSPITAL, Todmorden, 34 Beds.

The Fielden and Sourhall Hospitals are managed respectively by the Joint Hospital Committees, and Hepton Rural District Council is one of the local authorities of each Committee, the finances of the Committee being met by precept.

Institutional provision is provided for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, or homeless children, at the Union Hospital (Stansfield View, Todmorden), and the General Hospital, Halifax.

The investigation of maternal deaths, and cases of puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia, is undertaken by the County Medical Officer of Health.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious cases are removed by an Ambulance from the Fever Hospital. Non-infectious and Accident cases are removed by an ambulance jointly owned by the Hepton Rural Council and Hebden Royd Urban Council. Both these ambulances are of the modern motor type, and with regard to the Accident Ambulance, patients are called upon to pay a nominal amount on each occasion when the same is used. The Ambulance services in this area are quite adequate.

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre established in Hebden Bridge. A Clinic for mothers and babies is held once weekly, under the supervision of a lady doctor and two nurses. The attendances at this Clinic have increased considerably in recent years.

An Ante-natal Clinic is held bi-monthly and is being well attended. It is under the supervision of a Lady Doctor, and is held on the second and last Friday of each month at 2 p.m.

School Clinics are held twice weekly at this Centre and are attended by the Health Nurse.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries are held weekly at both Todmorden and Sowerby Bridge. The distance to either of these Dispensaries is about four miles from most parts of this area.

The nearest treatment centre for venereal diseases is at the Royal Halifax Infirmary, some eight miles away.

The Clinics referred to are under the control of the West Riding County Council.

There was no change during the year.

## AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

**Medical Staff.**—The duty of appointing Medical Practitioners to first-aid posts was specifically given by the Ministry of Health to the Central Emergency Committee of the British Medical Association, which in turn delegated the selection to its local Emergency Committees. In the Hebden Royd district I suggested that Dr. A. H. Clegg be appointed to the First Aid Post at Hope Street, and Dr. J. R. B. Dearden to the Mobile Unit. These appointments were approved by the Halifax War Committee, subsequent on receiving acknowledgment of same from the County Medical Officer of Health. The Ministry of Health

decided that Medical Officers of Health should not be appointed to First Aid Post, but that they were to be given full administrative control of the First Aid Services in their areas.

**First Aid Posts.**—The Ministry of Health decided that there should be one First Aid Post and one Mobile Unit (first aid) in your area:—The First Aid Post is in the basement of Hope Baptist School, and is fully manned and equipped.

**Mobile Unit.**—A motor van stationed at a garage opposite the First Aid Party Depot Headquarters. This van is fully equipped and ready for use, but it is in my opinion definitely unsuitable for the work it may be called upon to do in this area. It is a cumbersome and aged vehicle, which could not be relied upon to travel any distance in this very hilly area in safety. The practices I have arranged in conjunction with the Medical Officer in charge of the van will verify this. I have, on many occasions, since the outbreak of war, made requests for a more suitable type of van to serve as a mobile unit, but I have not had any success in my efforts. I am not satisfied, and I therefore make a strong demand for a modern replacement of the present Mobile Unit which has to cover the wide areas of your district.

**Air Raid Precautions.**—The following paragraphs describe the stage of development reached in the organisation of the various casualty services in the combined districts of the Hebden Royd and Hepton Rural areas:—

**Personnel:** Volunteers trained in First Aid and Anti-Gas:—

First Aid Post—Men 11, Women 31.

First Aid Parties—Men 38, Women 0.

Mobile Unit—Men 1, Women 6.

Ambulance Drivers—Men 2, full-time.

Voluntary—Men 10 (part-time), Women 2 (part-time)

Ambulance Attendants—Women 9.

Drivers of cars for sitting casualties—11 Men, 2 Women.

First Aid Party Cars—Men 6, Women 2.

## Nuisance Inspections.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1939 for Nuisances only 100
(Not including Housing Inspections)

Nuisances found in 1939 ..... 6
Nuisances in hand end of 1938 ..... 12
Total needing abatement ..... 18
Abated during 1939 ..... 12
Outstanding end of 1939 ..... 6
Notices Served, Informal ..... 18 Complied with 12
Notices Served, Statutory... None ,, None
Total No. of Summonses or other legal proceedings ... None

| Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c. | No. in District. | No. on Register. | Total No. of Inspections Made. | General Condition. | Legal Proceedings. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Common Lodging Houses | 0 | 0 | 0 | — | — |
| Canal Boats ..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | — | — |
| Knackers' Yards ..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | — | — |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Offensive Trades ..... Tripe Works). | 0 | 0 | 0 | — | — |

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades?—No.

## Drainage and Sewerage.

Particulars of any sewer extensions during 1939.....None

Details of any portion of District still requiring—

(a) Sewering .....Colden and Wadsworth
(b) Improvement of defective sewers .....None

No. of houses not connected to sewers...Approximately 900

## Sewage Disposal Works.

Particulars of any extensions made during 1939 .....None
Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works? ..... No
Any complaint from West Riding Rivers Board? ..... No

## Closet Accommodation.

Number of Privies with open middens ..... 8
Number of Pail or Tub Closets .....503
Number of Privies with covered middens ..... 59
Number of Water Closets .....370
Waste-water Closets ..... 8

No. of Privies reconstructed during 1939—(a) as w.c.'s —
(b) Other ..... —

No. of Closets, other than Privies, reconstructed during 1939 as w.c.'s ..... 14

No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1939 as (a) w.c.'s ... — (b) Other —

No. of Closets constructed in 1939 for new houses— (a) w.c.'s..... 50 (b) Other —

Any special action being taken by Council to secure conversion of privies, waste-water closets and pails to w.c. system. If so, what? £3 grant is made for each conversion.

## Scavenging.

Is public scavenging in operation throughout the whole district?—Parts only.

If not, is it in operation in any part of the area? If so, please specify part or parts—All areas except where houses are scattered.

How is refuse disposed of? — 1. Destruction, None. 2. Tipping, Yes. 3. Farmers, None.

If tipping is in operation, is it on the controlled system?—Yes.

Total annual cost of collection and disposal of refuse — £869 18s. 10d.

Particulars of any extension or improvement in the service during the year—Motor Transport has been substituted for horse-drawn vehicles during the year.

## Water Supply.

Source of supply—Chiefly wells and springs. Public supply to Heptonstall.

By whom distributed—Council.

Number of dwelling houses on public supply—453.

Any extension of supply during the year?—To 56 new houses and 7 old.

Has supply been satisfactory?—Yes. (a) In quality—Yes. (b) In quantity—Yes.

Number of examinations made during the year (a) chemical —None. Result— (b) Bacteriological 7—Result 5 unsatisfactory from private supplies.

Have any supplies been restricted or closed, if so, where? —None.

## Milk Supply.

Number of Milk Samples taken by officers of local authority for analysis under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938—None.

Number found adulterated—None. No. of ProsecutionsNone

Number of samples of ordinary Milk taken by officers of local authority for: (a) Methylene blue test—None; (b) Presence of tuberculosis—None.

Any special examination of milk for dirt, e.g., sedimentation test?—No.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk during 1939—No.

Number of Cowkeepers in district—104. No. registered 97

Total No. of Cowsheds—115. Total No. of milk cows—980.

Total number of Cowsheds inspected during the year—115.

Total number of Cowshed inspections—115.

Number of wholesale traders registered—30.

Number of retail milk sellers registered—67.

Have any retailers been removed from the register?—No.

Observations as to structural conditions, cleanliness, and methods of production and handling of milk—The cowsheds and methods of production and handling of milk are reasonably satisfactory.

Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936 and 1938.

| | No. of Licences in force in area for: | Samples of designated milks examined bacteriologically: Number satisfactory. | Number unsatisfactory. | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) Production of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk | 2 | 5 | — | 5 |
| (b) Production of "Accredited" Milk | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| (c) In respect of Pasteurising Plants | | — | — | — |

(d) No. of Licences in force for bottling "Tuberculin Tested" or "Accredited" Milk, other than at place of production—None.

### Meat Inspection.

Any public abattoir in district?—No.

Total number of private slaughterhouses 3, made up of 1 registered and 2 licensed.

Number unsatisfactory either as regards structure, position or in other respects—1.

Number of times each slaughterhouse inspected—4.

Total inspections—12.

Number of seizures of unsound food—3.

Total weight—557 lbs. No. of prosecutions—None.

### Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Meat Marking: Is scheme in force under above?—No.

### Other Foods.

Number of samples (other than milk) taken by officers of L.A. for examination under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938—None.

No. found adulterated—None. No. of prosecutions—None.

No. of Bakehouses in district—6. Total inspections—12.

Are any of bakehouses underground, if so, how many?—No.

### Schools.

Statutory Medical Inspection is carried out by the County Education Authority in most of the Districts, but that does not relieve the M.O.H. of his duties in regard to sanitation and the prevention of infectious outbreaks in connection with Schools.

Number of Schools in District—5. No. visited by M.O.H.—4

Action taken—None necessary.

Schools closed by M.O.H.—None.

General sanitary conditions—Good.

### Smoke Abatement.

Number of smoke observations each of 30 minutes duration taken during 1939—3.

No. of above showing excessive emission of black smoke—1

Number of cautions issued—None.

Number of statutory notices issued—None.

Number of prosecutions—None.

### Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 and 13 (3).

No. of visits paid under the above Act during 1939—None.

Unsatisfactory conditions found —. Remedied —.

### Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

Number in District—1.

Is this class of dwelling showing signs of increase?—No.

Have Council made byelaws under Section 268(4), Public Health Act, 1936?—No.

### Swimming Baths and Pools.

Are there in the district: Any public swimming baths or pools?—No.

Any privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public?—No.

### Byelaws and Regulations in force in District.

Common Lodging Houses, May, 1928.

New Streets and Buildings, August, 1939.

### Infectious and Other Diseases.

Diseases specially prevalent in 1939—None.

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list?—Measles and Whooping Cough.

Any influences threatening the health of the District?—No.

### Mortuaries.

What accommodation—

(a) For accidents?—One at Lewis Holme, Hebden Bridge.

(b) For infectious cases other than at hospital?—None.

(c) For other cases?—One for A.R.P. contaminated cases at Hebden Bridge.

(d) For post-mortem examinations?—One at Lewis Holme, Hebden Bridge.

**Sanitary Staff.**

What is the present annual salary of the M.O.H.?—£58.

Name of Sanitary Inspector—Walter Smith.

Annual salary as Sanitary Inspector—£180.

Other appointments held—Sanitary Surveyor.

Salary for such other appointments—£30.

Any Assistants?—No.

Is Staff sufficient?—No.

Does M.O.H. receive copies of Memos. and Circulars distributed by Ministry of Health?—Yes.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The District was remarkably free from notifiable disease throughout the year The thirteen cases of scarlet fever were of a sporadic type. No local action was taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation. Special Clinics were held in the beginning of the year for the inoculation of school children against diphtheria. Pre-school and school children can be immunised against diphtheria free of charge by their own doctors or at the Clinics held locally. The "Wellcome" Diphtheria Prophylactic T.A.F. is used for immunisation, and three injections are given at weekly intervals. The results so far as I can ascertain have been excellent.

I do not know of any use of the Shick and Dick Tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever having been made.

There were no cases of anthrax, psittacosis, undulant fever, glandular fever or epidemic jaundice.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1939.

| Disease. | Total cases notified. | Cases admitted To hospital. | Total Deaths. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Smallpox | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarlet Fever | 13 | 13 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal Fever | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Pneumonia | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Erysipelas | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | 1 | 0 | 0 |

| Disease. | Age Periods. | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 0 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 35 | 45 | 55 | 65 or over |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | 4 | 2 | 5 | .... | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | ..... |
| Diphtheria .... | .... | 1 | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ... | .... | ..... |
| Enteric Fever | .. | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ..... |
| Pneumonia .... | .... | ... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ..... |
| Erysipelas ... | .... | ... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | ..... |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | .... | ... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ..... |
| Smallpox .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ..... |

## PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

| Cases. | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Notified. | Treated | | | | | |
| | At Home. | In Hospital. | Vision Unimpaired | Vision Impaired. | Total Blindness. | Deaths |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939:—

| Age Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 ..... | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... |
| 1 .. .... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | ... |
| 5 ... . ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10 ..... .. | .. | ... | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... | .. |
| 15 ..... .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | . | .. | ... | ... |
| 20 ..... | ... | ... | 1 | .. | ... | . | ... | .. |
| 25 ..... ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 35 ... .. .. | .. | ... | . | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 45 .. .. .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | ... | ... | .. | ... |
| 55 .. ..... | ... | ... | .. | .. | .. | . . | ... | ... |
| 65 and upwards | ... | . | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Totals .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action was deemed necessary to be taken under these Regulations.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172.

No action has been found necessary to be taken under this Section during 1939.

I have the honour, Gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient servant,

**Francis Joseph Dowdall, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.,**

Medical Officer of Health.

# Hepton Rural District Council.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

# SANITARY INSPECTOR

## Year ending December 31st, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hepton Rural District Council.

Sir and Members,

I beg to place before you my report as Sanitary Inspector to the Hepton Rural District Council in which you will find a brief review of the work of this Department and the Sanitary conditions obtaining in your area during the year 1939.

Owing to a change in the position of Sanitary Inspector and my consequent appointment in April, housing work was somewhat held up as far as inspections were concerned.

Housing activities had been commenced when the outbreak of War intervened and since that date, apart from routine inspections, it has been impossible to make any appreciable progress.

During the year 56 houses have been completed on the Council's Housing Estate at West Laithe, Heptonstall, and it has thus been possible to re-house all persons displaced consequent upon the confirmation of outstanding Clearance Orders.

Overcrowding has been abated in every instance in the District, with the exception of one case, and there is every possibility of this being remedied in the near future.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**WALTER SMITH, A.R.San.I.**